

Jack Dudley

From: Jack Dudley
Sent: Thursday, February 15, 2024 8:46 AM
To: Jack Dudley
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Measles Information for Child Care Providers

From: Minnesota Department of Health <mdh@public.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 11:36:27 AM
To:
Subject: Measles Information for Child Care Providers



Measles Information for Child Care Providers

Hello Early Childhood Providers,

Last week the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) confirmed a case of measles in a 16-month-old, unvaccinated child in Dakota County. Since then, an unvaccinated sibling of the case has developed symptoms and tested positive for measles, bringing the count to two cases. Measles is a serious disease caused by a virus that is spread through the air. The measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine protects people from measles disease and is one of the required vaccines for children who attend child care. The first dose of MMR is recommended for all children 12 months or older.

Measles can spread rapidly in a child care setting. Here are several steps that you can take to learn more about measles and prepare for a measles case in your child care:

1. Share this message with the leaders in your center(s).
2. Know the signs and symptoms of measles by reviewing [Measles \(Rubeola\)](#).
 1. If you have a suspected case of measles at your child care, report it to MDH by calling 651-201-5414 or 877-676-5414.
3. Review and refer to guidance provided in [Preparing for and Responding to Measles in Your Child Care \(PDF\)](#).

4. Reach out to families with children who are not in compliance with the MMR requirement. Those who have obtained an exemption for their children should be informed that their child could be excluded from child care for 21 days or longer if exposed to measles.
 1. Enroll in the MIIC texting program for immunization reminder/recall. This program is free to child care centers in Minnesota and uses MIIC data to identify students in need of immunizations. The text messages are available in English, Spanish, Somali and Hmong.
 2. For more information, please see [Reminder/Recall Using Text Messages \(PDF\)](#). If your organization would like to participate contact MDH at health.miictexting@state.mn.us.

Minnesota may see more cases of measles this year given the increase in measles cases nationally and internationally. In 2023, only 78.7% of 2-year-olds in Minnesota received one dose of MMR vaccine by 24 months compared to 83.8% in 2019 (pre-pandemic). The increase in measles cases, coupled with the decrease in the number of Minnesotan children vaccinated with the MMR vaccine, puts Minnesota at risk for additional measles cases or a measles outbreak.

Thank you for your continued partnership in protecting the health of Minnesotans.

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